

Blues News



A Bucks Free Press publication

www.wwfc.com

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We're up!

At last it's official – we're going up! After five years in the 'wilderness' of League Two, Wycombe can now look forward to locking horns with major clubs like Norwich, Southampton, Charlton and possibly Leeds, all Premier League outfits in the last few years.

There's the exciting prospect of derby games

against Brentford, Leyton Orient and perhaps MK Dons and Millwall. Old scores to settle against Colchester, Stockport and Yeovil as well as visits from former top division clubs Swindon, Brighton, Carlisle United, Huddersfield and Oldham.

The tension and drama of the final day of the season at Adams Park has been replaced

by the anticipation of what could be the most exciting campaign since the glory days of Martin O'Neill 15 years ago.

The legendary Irishman is one of the star contributors to this Bucks Free Press promotion special packed with news and pictures.

We hear also from former players Sergio Torres, Russell Martin, Mike Williamson and

Roger Johnson.

These are exciting times for Wanderers and the countdown to next season has already started. The fixtures are published on June 17 and the season starts on August 8.

In the meantime, wwfc.com will keep you posted with all the news from Adams Park as a hectic summer of transfer activity gets underway.

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We're not going up just to make up the numbers

WELL, we finally did it. It might not have been easy on the heart but I don't think this club would have it any other way.

What matters is that promotion has now been achieved.

From a personal view, I am absolutely delighted. It's just about sunk in and now I am determined to push on.

Rest assured, we won't be content just to make up the numbers. We are going up there to compete.

However, we also have to take a sensible approach. There's no point recklessly chucking money into the playing squad, you'll just end up going bust.

There are plenty of well-run clubs across the country who have been able to push on after gaining promotion from the basement division. I have friends at both Peterborough and MK Dons and they have had excellent campaigns in League One.

From our point of view Peter Taylor's hard work has paid off in just one season and there's no reason why we can't push on and do it again.

We have an excellent working relationship and he will have the full backing of both the board and myself as we head into the summer.

We need to get in enough players in the building to

ensure that we can make it over the finish line.

We don't want people in the squad who don't contribute. Everyone has to play their part.

I would ask everyone to be positive. We want to raise our average gates next season and we are a club that is willing to try things. No one can accuse us of lacking ambition.

Thank you all for your support this season - enjoy the summer, enjoy our success and make sure you come back for more!

STEVE HAYES
Managing director



Taylor is one of the very best

THE grin never left his face on Saturday evening. Glass of champagne in hand, he glided from room to room saying thank you and well done to everyone he met.

He's one of those people who gets a warm welcome wherever they go at Adams Park.

From the boardroom to the dressing room, from the fans in the Vase Suite to the lady who launders the kit, he's known simply as Mr Chairman.

Ivor Beeks has made an enormous contribution to the success of Wycombe Wanderers over the past 25 years, most of them as chairman.

He's seen ten managers come and go and has no hesitation in naming Peter Taylor as 'one of the very best.'

He said: "Obviously I was chairman when Martin O'Neill was here and his achievements over five years will take some beating, but even Martin couldn't manage promotion in his first season."

"Peter has been a breath of fresh air - and I remember using exactly the same phrase about Martin when he joined us all those years ago."

"He's one of the calmest men I've ever met and he's willing to make time for everyone. He's a real people's person and it's been a pleasure working with him. I hope he stays with us for a very long time."

Ivor's business acumen and sound common sense has been recognised at the highest level of the game.

He's served on several influential committees at both the Football Association and the Football League.

He said: "I've been privileged to make a contribution on that side of the sport but my first love is the Wanderers. Nothing beats winning three points on a Saturday afternoon and with Peter in charge I can see only good times ahead."



THE ONLY WAY IS UP: Chairman Ivor Beeks points the way forward

I was home in time to see Match of The Day

It gets better every time says Taylor after his fifth promotion

AS Wycombe's players and fans partied long into the night, the man who masterminded the club's first promotion for 15 years slipped quietly away to enjoy a celebration meal with his wife and daughters.

Blues boss Peter Taylor said: "It was a night for the players to let their hair down. They certainly didn't want me around spoiling their fun."

"I told them that I was proud of what they'd achieved then left them to get on with it. I was home in time to watch Match of the Day."

The Wanderers manager is an old hand at end-of-season parties. Last week was the fifth time that he's led a club to promotion following similar success at Gillingham, Brighton and Hull City (twice).

He said: "It gets better every time. I came to Wycombe because it's a club that's run properly by people who know what they're doing and who really care about their club. I knew the potential was there and I'm delighted that I've been able to bring them a little bit of success."

It's now business as usual for the man known as the 'gaffer'.

He said: "I have meetings planned with my football staff to discuss pre-season training, friendlies and so on. Then we have to deal with the players who are out of contract and some of the scholars who are being released."

"Next on the agenda will be to sit



JOB DONE: Manager Peter Taylor celebrates promotion with Gary Holt and Matt Bloomfield

down with the board to talk about the budget for next season. I'd obviously like to get some new players in and others will probably be leaving, but it's all down to how

much money we have to spend. "League One will be much tougher. There are some big clubs in there next season and we need to compete with them, but it's an

exciting challenge and we'll be ready for it."

Who will Taylor sign?
wffc.com

Wanderers' stewards join the players in picking up the accolades this season

ADAMS Park stadium manager Richard Stanford has praised his award winning stewards after they mimicked the success of Peter Taylor's first team stars in the 2008/09 season.

The safety team were granted a 'National Customer Award' during the campaign and have attracted constant praise from visiting supporters for their welcoming nature.

Football League Chief Operating Officer Andy Williamson said: "Wycombe are most worthy recipients of this accolade and the stewarding team's hard work and

commitment to delivering excellent customer service has been instrumental in the club's success."

It marks the end of a wonderful season for the Blues

both on and off the field, as the Wanderers community scheme were again granted 'Family Excellence' status at the 2009 Football League Awards.

That came as the Blues hosted

the grand opening of their state of the art 'Matrix Learn Centre', a facility aimed at using football to improve educational standards for underprivileged children. For information call 01494 453735.



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Willo pays tribute to the men he left behind

WATFORD star Mike Williamson paid tribute to his former Wycombe team-mates after the Blues secured a spot in League One.

Willo was in the Adams Park crowd for the club's promotion decider with Notts County on Saturday and was on hand to congratulate the Wanderers players at the final whistle.

He said: "I knew they would do it. They've got enough ability in the squad and although it was close you are judged on what you do over 46 games, not one."

"It's relief at the end of the day. The boys have worked hard all season and they've achieved the goal. The manager and staff have done a great job and the players are going to get all the credit they deserve."

"We've given the fans something to bite their nails about a few times this season but the main thing is promotion and



BACK AT THE PARK: Mike Williamson returned to see his former colleagues clinch promotion on Saturday

we've done it. Everyone can now look forward to playing some big games next season, including those against Southampton, Norwich and Charlton."

The 25-year-old played an integral role in the Blues' rise to the summit of League Two

earlier in the campaign and will receive a League Two promotion medal for his efforts in 22 appearances for Peter Taylor's side this season.

The defender's impressive performances at the heart of the Wanderers defence caught the eye of Watford and the 6ft 4" centre-half sealed a switch to the Championship club in January.

But despite moving to the Hornets, Willo revealed he's kept a close eye on events at Adams Park and even made the short trip to Buckinghamshire on a few occasions.

He said: "I've been following the Wycombe results. I've come to a few games and watched the boys. I speak to a few of them regularly."

"I've got some good friends at the club as I was there for four or five years. It's just brilliant to come back and see everyone enjoying it."

Legend O'Neill offers his congratulations

MARTIN O'Neill, the greatest manager in Wycombe's history, has hailed the achievement of Peter Taylor for becoming the first Blues boss to win promotion since O'Neill himself 15 years ago.

The legendary Irishman told me: "It is a monumental achievement and I'm so pleased for everyone at Wycombe. Peter deserves all the credit in the world. I know how desperate the club has been to get out of League Two and for Peter to win promotion in his first season is unbelievable."

O'Neill was in charge of Wycombe for five unforgettable years before going on to become one of the top managers in the game with Norwich, Leicester, Celtic and his present club Aston Villa.

He was at the helm when Wanderers won promotion to the Football League in 1993 and then beat Preston North End in the play-off final to go straight up to Division Three as it was then called.

He told me: "I still have a great deal of affection for Wycombe. The club was a major part of my career and a big part of our life for my family and I. We still have a home in the area and I've always kept in touch with the people who were at the club when I was there."

"I still look out for Wycombe's results every Saturday and I've helped them out with loan players from time to time. I also recommended Peter Taylor's predecessor Paul Lambert, who played for me at Celtic. I knew that he had the qualities to make a good manager and he's proved himself at Wycombe and now at Colchester United."

By Alan Parry

www.fc.com

"Paul did a great job at Adams Park taking the team to the semi-finals of the Carling Cup and then the play-offs last season, but he still couldn't manage that elusive promotion. Well, Peter's managed it in his first season with a less experienced squad so that proves what a good manager he is."

"I don't know Peter that well. Ironically, he followed me into Leicester City when I moved to Celtic and there was a bit of tension between the clubs for a while when I made my first attempt to sign Neil Lennon from them. But that's long forgotten and I loaned Peter a player when he was in charge at Crystal Palace a couple of seasons ago."

O'Neill's commitments with Villa mean that he rarely gets to see Wycombe play but we was a spectator for the away game against Gillingham in December. We (Villa) had got Gillingham in the FA Cup and it was the perfect opportunity to watch them play and catch up with some old friends at the same time."

He said: "It was great to see so many familiar faces that day and I had a chat about old times with Ivor Beeks. He rented me our first home in Wycombe - a tiny flat off the London Road - and I told him that he charged me far too much!"

"There are some wonderful, genuine people at Wycombe and I have the highest regard for the club. It's a great little club with the potential to become bigger. I know that Steve Hayes is very ambitious and so is Peter Taylor."



PLEASED AS PUNCH: Martin O'Neill, the man who last led Wycombe to promotion, was among the first to offer his congratulations

"They won't be sitting back and thinking 'that's great, we've cracked it' just because they've won promotion. They'll want to push on from here."

And O'Neill - as usual - found the perfect words to describe the nail-biting drama of that amazing final day of the season.

He said: "Listen, in a week's time no-one will remember that you lost against Notts County and only went up by one goal. Promotion was achieved over the whole season, not one day."

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We thought they had missed out again

FORMER Wycombe stars Sergio Torres and Russell Martin interrupted their own promotion celebrations with Peterborough United to check out the news from Adams Park - and went away thinking their old team-mates had missed out!

Torres and Martin left Adams Park for London Road in a joint deal last summer and helped Darren Ferguson's squad to a second successive promotion. They played their final game of the season in League One at home to Swindon last Saturday as the Blues were taking on Notts County at Adams Park.

Push skipper Martin said: "Sergio and I went straight back to the dressing room at the end of our game to find out how Wycombe had done. We couldn't believe it when we saw they'd lost but we didn't know what was going on elsewhere."

"Then we were told to go back out onto the pitch for a lap of honour and to collect our medals. We were half way round when our physio told us that Wycombe had gone up so we started celebrating all over again!"

"I was on the phone to Matty Bloomfield as soon as we got in and he was obviously overjoyed. I'm so pleased for everyone. The club really deserves it."

And Torres, Wycombe's favourite Argentine, added: "I loved my time at Wycombe and I'll never forget the people there. They gave me my first big break in football and the fans were so good to me. It's great news."

A horrible irony

WITH a terrible irony, ex-Blues favourite Roger Johnson saw his own promotion hopes dashed by a single goal just 24 hours after his old club went up by the same slender margin.

The defender was in the Cardiff team beaten 1-0 by Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday. The result meant Cardiff finished level on points and goal difference with Preston in the race for the final play-off place in the Championship, but Preston scraped in by virtue of having scored one more goal.

Johnson said: "It's going to take me a long time to get over the disappointment, but at least Wycombe have made it. I was on the team coach travelling up to Sheffield on Saturday and we were watching the TV and seeing the scores coming in from Wycombe and Bury."

"All the Cardiff lads were sympathising with me when it looked as if Wycombe were going to blow it and I was so pleased when I heard that they'd been promoted."

"My last game for the club was the play-off semi final at Cheltenham and I'll never forget the disappointment we all felt that night. Promotion is long overdue and I'm really pleased for everyone."

"I keep in regular contact with Matt Bloomfield and Steve Hayes and had a great relationship with the fans. It's wonderful for them, but I just wish that Cardiff could have gone up as well. It's difficult to come to terms with, knowing that you've missed out on the chance to play in the Premier League."

Johnson could still get his chance of top level football as he seems certain to be the subject of transfer inquiries in the summer with Wanderers set to collect a slice of any fee that Cardiff receive.



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Souvenir programmes have been re-ordered

MANY fans were left disappointed at Adams Park last Saturday when the 68-page bumper edition of Wanderers' official match day programme sold out in some parts of the stadium.

Despite ordering thousands of extra copies, supplies of the special edition of The Quarters soon ran low when supporters snapped them up to guarantee that they had a souvenir of a memorable day.

Now, thanks to the co-operation of official programme suppliers Shoot the Moon, we can satisfy all those fans that missed out.

Copies are available in the club shops at Adams Park and in the Eden Centre or by e-mailing us at media@wffc.com.

The special edition of The Quarters includes the story of the season in words and pictures, manager Peter Taylor's 'end of term' report, the players' favourite moments from the season plus all the usual features.

And there's a bonus! If you are one of the fans who travel regularly to away games, it could be your face circled in our feature 'Chairboys Barmy Army'. If it is, you're in line for a special prize.

The Quarters souvenir edition is available at the usual price of £2.50.

DVD of the season

TAYLOR Made is the title of a 90-minute review of an unforgettable season due for release shortly on DVD.

It tells the inside story of the club's first ever automatic promotion as a Football League club from the 18-match unbeaten start to the drama and tension of the incredible final day last Saturday.

Our cameras went behind the scenes to record exclusive footage of the Blues dressing room as promotion was confirmed and the wild celebrations began. We interview the Wanderers stars on their emotional lap of honour and hear from former Adams Park favourites like Mike Williamson.

Peter Taylor talks in-depth about his highlights of the season and his hopes for the future and, of course, there's plenty of action and goals from all the important games.

It's the perfect souvenir of an incredible season and it's coming out soon. Log on to the club's official website wffc.com for news of the release date.

LEAGUE TWO

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Brentford	46	23	16	7	65	36	29	85
Exeter City	46	22	13	11	65	50	15	79
Wanderers	46	20	18	8	54	33	21	78
Bury	46	21	15	10	63	43	20	78
Gillingham	46	21	12	13	58	55	3	75
Rochdale	46	19	13	14	70	59	11	70
Shrewsbury	46	17	18	11	61	44	17	69
Dag & Red	46	19	11	16	77	53	24	68
Bradford	46	16	13	15	66	55	11	67
Chertham	46	16	15	15	62	57	5	63
Morecambe	46	15	18	13	53	56	-3	63
Darlington	46	20	12	14	61	44	17	62
Lincoln City	46	14	17	15	53	52	1	59
Rotherham	46	21	12	13	60	46	14	58
Aldershot	46	14	12	20	59	80	-21	54
Accrington	46	13	11	22	42	59	-17	50
Barnet	46	11	15	20	56	74	-18	48
Port Vale	46	13	9	24	44	66	-22	48
Notts County	46	11	14	21	49	69	-20	47
Macclesfield	46	13	8	25	45	77	-32	47
Bournemouth	46	17	12	17	59	51	8	46
Grimsby	46	9	14	23	51	69	-18	41
Chester City	46	8	13	25	43	81	-38	37
Luton Town	46	13	17	16	58	65	-7	26

The longest five

Wanderers' head of media Alan Parry has travelled the world



ANXIOUS WAIT: Alan Parry (left), Peter Taylor and Damien Doyle wait for news from Gigg Lane where another Bury goal would have consigned Blues to the lottery of the play-offs for the third time in five seasons

Picture by PAUL DENNIS

By Alan Parry
wffc.com

about to change.

As Thompson curled his left boot around the ball, Adams Park held its breath. His shot swung ominously towards goal, beyond

the reach of Jamie Young and into the corner of the net.

He couldn't have done a better job if he'd plunged a dagger through our hearts.

Save for the muffled shouts of a couple of hundred County fans, you could hear a pin drop.

To say that Wycombe's players

and fans were stunned doesn't begin to do it justice.

But things were about to get worse. Much worse.

I had watched most of the game in the company of managing director Steve Hayes and his family in Steve's executive box high in the Frank Adams stand.

With five minutes to go, I dashed down to pitch side to rendezvous with cameraman Tom Powell, ready to film the joyous scenes of celebration for a DVD that we are making.

Ironically, I had a perfect view of Thompson's goal as I crouched down near the touchline.

My first reaction was to shout to Tom: 'How long to go to Bury?'

Tom was in walkie-talkie contact with Callum Medcraft, the producer of our big screen presentations, who was keeping an eye on the score from Gigg Lane. 'Don't know' replied Tom 'but they've just been awarded a penalty'.

I felt the blood drain from my face. Two hundred miles away, some journeyman footballer from Bury was about to ruin everything.

And there was absolutely nothing that we could do to stop him.



BITING THEIR NAILS: The tension in the stands was unbearable

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minutes of our lives

reporting on sport but Saturday's Adams Park drama was a new one even on him



PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR THE WORST: Wanderers players look forlorn in their changing room as they look to the screen for the score from Bury

'Please tell me he's missed' I begged Tom. After a few seconds pause, he shook his head and replied: 'No, he's scored, 1-0 to Bury'.

I had one more critical question - 'How long to go?' and I'll remember Tom's answer till my dying day: 'Five minutes'.

Forgive me Tom, but at that moment I wanted to punch your lights out. What is it they say about don't shoot the messenger? I wanted back at him: 'Five minutes? How the hell can there be five bloody minutes?' As if he would know.

One more goal for Bury and Wycombe's whole season could have gone down the drain. After ten months of blood, sweat and tears, our destiny was out of our hands.

We've suffered the agonies of losing in the promotion play-offs in two of the last three seasons. No one wanted to go through that again. How could Peter Taylor lift the players to face two or three more games when automatic promotion had been so close that you could smell it?

The final whistle blew at Adams Park. Cue confusion, bewilderment, and uncertainty. We couldn't celebrate, but neither was it time for tears of disappointment. And there was only one question on everyone's mind: 'What's happening at Bury?'

The next five minutes were



CHAMPAGNE: Scott Shearer finally gets the party going

surreal. The players and 9,000 Wycombe fans were in limbo. Taylor and a few of the players dashed over to Tom and I for news from Gigg Lane. I had to tell them: 'They're still

playing.' It was like informing someone of a terrible accident.

With no one sure what to do next, the gaffer took charge and ordered the lads back to the dressing room.

But they never got there. As they trudged off the pitch to await their fate, the news that we'd all been waiting for finally came through.

I'm not sure who said it, but I heard the shout: 'Bury finished 1-0. We're up!'

Cue mayhem. As news spread around the stadium, the tension was released with an almighty roar followed by an explosion of joy. And in the cramped confines of the players' tunnel, 30 grown men were suddenly welded together in a heap of human happiness.

After 46 games, hundreds of training sessions and thousands of motorway miles, the players were finally able to celebrate winning promotion in a tiny dressing room corridor just a few feet wide. It's a scene I'll never forget.

Somewhere in the midst of that joyous throng were Tom and I, camera and all. It should make for the best kind of reality TV when we release our DVD of this memorable season.

After several choruses of 'We are going-up, say we are going-up' the players and the rest of us tumbled back into the dressing room in a torrential downpour of champagne. Corks were popping, hands being slapped, photos being taken that one day will be shown to the grandchildren.

I tried to imagine what the scene must have been like 200 miles north of bouncing Bucks in the dressing room at Gigg Lane where Bury had failed to win promotion by just one goal. One goal!

Our ecstasy was their agony and I'd like to say that I felt sorry for them, but the truth is I didn't. This is sport and for every winner there has to be a loser. Wycombe have been in Bury's position before and I don't remember too much sympathy coming our way. Been there, done that, got the T-shirt.

I can still vividly recall the scene in that same Wycombe dressing room 17 years earlier. We got 94 points and still failed to win promotion when Colchester pipped us to the Conference title on goal difference. Grown men - hard men like Jason Cousins - were inconsolable, not ashamed to let anyone see their tears.

Yes, it would have been lovely to batter Notts County 5-0. It would have been great to show all those fans that we can play football like Barcelona, but we got what we came for and that's all that matters.

The league table doesn't lie and what a wonderful feeling it was to see that letter 'P' beside our name. 'P' for promoted - and as I later said to our chairman over a glass of champagne, 'it was never in doubt!'



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"You can use your Blues Card to watch the team in action at special

SIGNED UP: Skipper Dave McCracken has got his Blues Card

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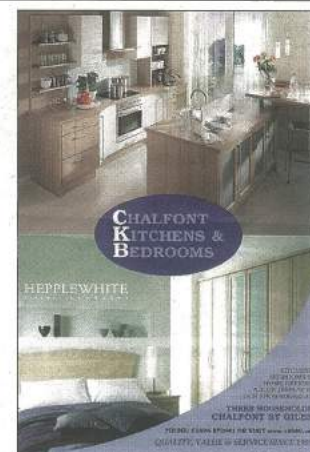
To find out more please contact Mike Phillips on 01494 455717 or at mike.phillips@wwfc.com.

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- Free entry into the Blues pre-season game at Adams Park
- Bring three guests free of charge during the season
- 10% discount on food in all Adams Park lounges on match days
- 10% off all conference, meeting and room bookings at Adams Park
- Refer a friend who buys an adult season ticket and you will receive £50 cashback
- Attend all matches during the 2009/10 campaign and you will receive an exclusive gift at the end of the season

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WITH the Blues now in League One, there is all the more reason to enjoy the games with the likes of Charlton Athletic, Norwich City and Southampton in style.

And Wanderers fans can snap up a VIP experience of their own for any game next season for just £40.

You could enjoy the pre-match atmosphere of the climate-controlled Hypnos Lounge with a private bar and large plasma screens - bring broadcast exclusive Wanderers programming in the build up to the big game.

Your day will be fully managed by our dedicated hospitality team who look after your every need throughout your Wycombe Wanderers experience.

For that bargain price you will get:

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Our friendly commercial team will be happy to help with any enquiries.

To find out more about that perfect treat for someone special or to spoil yourself, simply e-mail commercial@wwfc.com or contact 01494 455705.



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ADAMS PARK	1000	500	200	200
ADAMS PARK	1000	500	200	200
ADAMS PARK	1000	500	200	200
ADAMS PARK	1000	500	200	200
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